

Integrating Palm Devices into the School of Medicine Curriculum

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Integrating Palm Devices into the SOM Curriculum



- Opportunity
 - Built on existing relationship with Course Master
 - Interested in using handheld devices
 - Work with School of Medicine, Pediatrics clerkship director



Integrating Palm Devices into the SOM Curriculum



- Planning
 - Explored ways devices could be used
 - Identified a device and features wanted
 - Tungsten C; wireless, lots of memory
 - Established a timeline
 - Start July 2003
 - Selected software
 - Kidometer, Red Book, PedsBase, etc.
 - Outlined costs and potential funding sources
 - Planned for faculty training

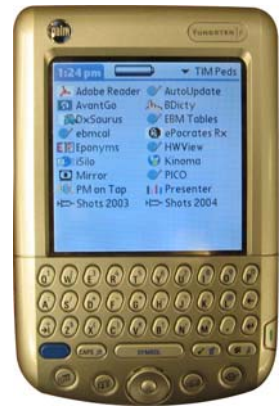
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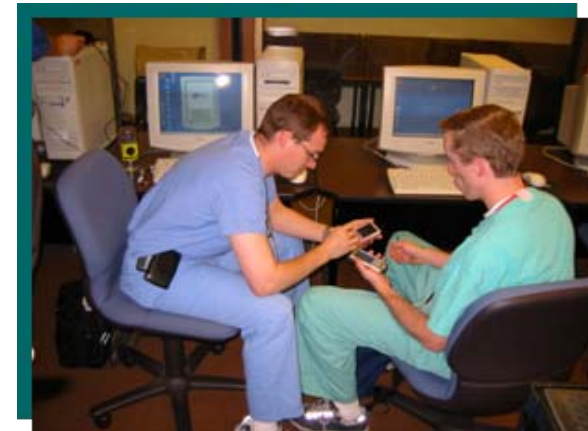
- Funding

15 devices for medical students SOM Educational Resource Development Council	\$ 9,750
6 devices for Pediatric faculty SOM Educational Computing Committee	\$ 3,000
8 devices for library faculty Eccles Health Sciences Library	\$ 4,000
Initial cost of project	\$16,567

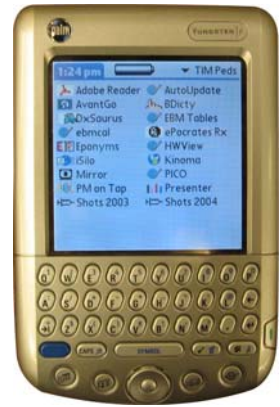
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- Course Content
 - Established specific goals and objectives
 - Session I – Building Your Palm
 - Session II – Assigned application evaluation
 - Session III – Student selected application evaluation
 - Session IV – Evidence-based searching
 - Session V – Evaluating the literature



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- Technical Issues
 - Selecting appropriate device
 - Software licenses, negotiation and configuration
 - Coordinating with IT staff
 - Configure PDAs for first session
 - Circulation of devices
 - Student privacy; reset devices after each rotation



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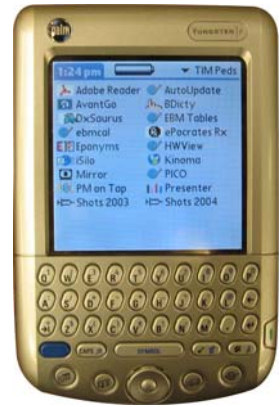


- Challenges
 - First session is very time intensive
 - Training facilitators and library staff
 - 2 library lead instructors and 2 assistants
 - Student device and operating system preferences
 - Working with software vendors
 - No standardization for application installation
 - Evolving software options
 - PDA damage and loss



- Students issues Palm device for 6-week pediatric rotation
- Library faculty instruct on basic functionality
- Students learn organizational features, installation processes, document conversion and clinical applications
- Students teach peers about applications
- Attending physician reviews evidence-based literature evaluation using Palm applications
- Course corrections and enhancements are ongoing

Integrating Palm Devices into the SOM Curriculum



- Outcome

- Students learn the value of new technologies
- Students develop their critical evaluation skills
- Students surveys and faculty interviews indicate that students perceive the course as worthwhile
- Library faculty have a unique opportunity to interact with medical students
- Library leadership promotes leading edge technologies in SOM curriculum



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http://medstat.med.utah.edu/library/edumaterials/ecourses/SoMedicine/topics_peds/

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